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**BE THE
DIFFERENCE.**

VOLUNTEER.



Lackawanna County CASA is
Facilitated by





Advocate for abused and/or neglected children; give them hope, support and encouragement; enhance their resiliency; and ensure that their voices are heard as the juvenile court system seeks safe, permanent, and nurturing homes.

OUR HISTORY

In 2008, at the request of the President Judge, Chester Harhut, the Advocacy Alliance facilitated the development of a CASA Program. Our CASA is a member of National CASA and follows the standards recommended for program development and implementation.

OUR GOAL

The goal of Lackawanna County CASA is to prevent abused, neglected, and abandoned children from becoming lost in the Juvenile Dependency system and working to find them safe, permanent homes as soon as possible. We work carefully to match a CASA volunteer with a child to ensure that the child's best interest is served.

VOLUNTEER

As a CASA volunteer, you speak up for the best interest of a child in court.

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to recommend the best possible outcome for an abused or neglected child's future. Whether this means helping to make a connection with adoptive parents or safely reuniting the child with the parents or relatives, the ultimate goal of the CASA is to help ensure that every one of these kids can live in a safe, permanent home.

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO

Once assigned to a case, the CASA volunteer reviews court, school, medical and caseworker records. The CASA volunteer talks with everyone involved including parents, foster parents, social workers, school officials, health providers and, most importantly, the child. The CASA then provides the judge with a factual, written



report to help the court make a well-informed, timely decision about that child's future.

During the life of a case, a CASA volunteer monitors the child's situation to make sure he/she remains safe. CASA volunteers may be the only constant the child knows as he/she moves through the labyrinth of the child welfare system.

STUDIES SHOW THAT A CHILD WITH A CASA VOLUNTEER...

- Is more likely to secure needed services in a timely manner.
- Is moved from placement to placement less frequently.
- Is more likely to have their case reviewed regularly by the court.
- Has a better chance of living in a safe, permanent home.